IN LOUISDANA. ly Half the Usual Quantity of Sugar Pro duced-No Explanation Known of the Fallure-The Development a Surprise

to Planters-A Secret of Nature's. NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 1.—Tre Louisiana sugar planters are puzzling over a mystery of great importance to them. It is, Why has the sugar a failed so badly this year? It is one of the most extraordinary failures in the history of agriculture in Louisiana and is probably due to me secret of nature that man has not yet

It should be said parenthetically that there is no dispute as to the failure of the erop and that the reports concerning it are not inspired a desire to advance prices. The cane power in this State realizes that the Louislana ction of sugar is so amall as compared with the total consumption of this country hat it cuts no figure in fixing the price. There is, it is true, usually a slight decline in the price of sugar-a fraction of a went-when the Louisiana crop is being marketed; but this is a mere trick of the trade, and the decline urs however large or small the erop may be. There is no incentive, therefore, for the cane to misrepresent facts and underestimate the yield in the belief that it may tend to send up the price of sugar. And even if there were the inclination, it would be difficult carry out any conspiracy of the kind. The statistics of no crop in the world are more fully, carefully and accurately kept than those of the sugar product of Louisiana. It is a of mathematics. Covering as the crop does a limited area, and the manufacture ind refining of the sugar being controlled by a mparatively few persons, the utmost accuracy insistedion in the preservation of all the stalistics bearing on the yield. Every acre planted s recorded, as is every ton of cane ground and every pound of sugar and gallon of mo-At the end of the season it is possible to tell within a pound and a gallon what has een the yield to the acre and for the entire State. Hence, when it is announced by the sugar planters that the crop is a failure it can be accepted as a fact, and this announcement as been made and the figures given for it. The crop, in proportion to the acreage planted, will see the smallest yield in sugar known aince the civil war, unless there should be some radical and unhoped-for change between now and the end of the grinding season. To find anything like the present condition the planters have had to go back twenty-one years to 1877, when the cane crop similarly failed in

The planters themselves are puzzled over it and are trying to understand it, and have failed so far. The cane in the fields is in aprently as perfect condition as it ever was. It is large, thick and high. The yield in cane is much heavier than the average. Everything is apparently in the most satisfactory condion except one important item-the sugar is lacking. When the planters began grinding during the first part of November they took a most optimistic view of the situation, save as to the possible effect of the annexation of the Philippines. They had planted 20 per cent more cane than the previous year; the erop was large and bountiful with a heavier tonnage to the acre and promised a better yield, and the price of sugar is satisfactory.

What, then, was their surprise when during the first week of the grinding it was discovered that the cane was yielding 80, 90 and rarely 100 pounds of augar to the ton, against the usual average of 180 pounds. The sugar yield had fallen off one-half or more, from 9 or 10 per cent. of the cane tounage to 4 per cent. for they had not had the slightest reason to expect it. No suspicion seems to have existed

pect it. No suspicion seems to have existed that there was something wrong with the cane, which, in appearance, was as rich in sugar as in the most bountful year.

The failure was attributed at first to the greenness of the cane- and there is no enestion that it is slightly behind its condition at this time last year. Several of the sugar mills stopped operations in order to let the cane grow riper, as it does not pay to get eighty pounds of sugar to the ton of cane. A serious risk, however, is involved in stopping the grinding operations—the risk of a freeze followed by a thaw, that will kill the canes and cause the juice to ferment. When this occurs the juice will not yield sugar, and can be used only for the manufacture of moinsses. In old days a sudden and unexpected freeze meant a moinsses year, when the cane crop of Louisiana turned out syrup only.

Buch accidents, however, never occur to-day. The Weather Buresu is so well organized in Louisians and the means of informing the planters of a probable change in the temperature are so good that every one knows of a prospective freeze from two to four days in advance. When the warning is received the planters put their whole force into the field to

value. When the warming is received the planters put their whole force into the field to windrow the cane, that is, to cut it down, so that the cane proper is covered and protected by the abundant green leaves of the plant. Loss from a fresse has thus been reduced to a minimum, and freezes no longer, as of old, cut a figure in the planter's enfeutlations.

But this winter it has looked different. The supposed greenness of the cane, or, at least, its failure to return the amount of sugar expected from it, is a temptation to planters to hold back the grinding a little later than usual in the hope that a cool spell—a frost, not a freeze—will tend to ripen it and make it yield more sugar. It is a great risk—the risk of losing everything in the hope of getting more—and the planters have received many warnings that the winter is to be an early and severe one, and therefore that the risk they take is very great.

But the delay has been productive of little.

But the delay has been productive of little good. As the season has progressed, the yield of sugar has shown no change or improvement. It is quite evident that as an explanation of the amail yield, the greenness of the cane will not suffice, and that something else is at work to cut down the sugar crop. There is so extraordinarily large an amount of glucose in the cane that, at the very best, only 75 ner sent, of the sugar can be extracted, and very few mills can do even this, as a considerable amount of the sugar inust be held in solution in order to secure the rest in the form of errors als. Some physiological change has occurred in the condition of the cane, termanently injuring it, so that the colder weather which ought to ripen it and increase the yield has had no effect on it.

The yield to the ton of cane so far will full below 100 pounds. In Assumetion and berin parishes it is below 10. The best plantations in the State, with the most perfect machinery, will run up to 110 or 120 pounds. The Miles hew Hope plantationed Ascension, which usually leads the parish in production, has been able to get only 120 pounds to the ton; and only one other place. Salzburg, has gone over the latter figures, it having secured 167 pounds. This is to be compared with 180 pounds to the ton of cane obtained by the first-class sugar houses and reflicaries in previous synona. It should be further said that the smaller yield of sugar costs more to extract from the cane, and many plantations report that they are using 25 ser cent, more fuel than last year and getting only 50 per cent, as much sugar.

What is the mystery of unture which catses the cane to yield so much less sugar when it looks so promising? A failure like this course, and the history of the sugar crop of that year and getting only 50 per cent, as much sugar.

What is the mystery of unture which catses the cane to yield so much less sugar when it looks so promising? A failure like this occurred only once before in louisians, in 1877, and the history of the sugar i

and an cotton reinest the time calcos, mustles and other goods. The susar planter must have a sugar house or refleey attached to his plantation, which costs in machinery asy, where from \$200,000 to \$000,000. He must have a sugar house or refleey attached to his plantation, which costs in machinery asy, where from \$200,000 to \$000,000. He must have a sugar house of the plantation which costs in machinery asy, where from his case in the yield and guality of the sugar turned out. This skilled and scientific indoor is spiendidly said. The planters, their chomists, machinists and engineering the sugar houses was never better done than it is to-day, and is far now secretally as the sugar houses was never better done than it is to-day, and is far horse of as a line the old careless, slipshold days of 18.7. What is the explanation?

The Indiure in 18.7 was attributed to a severe harrienne which occurred in September. It blew the came down any appropriate the came down any appropriate the came down any appropriate the plantation of the failure. The explanation of the storm the cane day are as it should have done. There has been, however, no storm this season to account for the failure. The explanation of a point of the failure in 18.7 this theory makes been, however, no storm this season to account for the failure. The explanation of a point of the failure in 18.7 this theory makes been, however, no storm this season to account for the failure. The explanation is the long drought in the suring, which set back the cane and followed by a rainy season, beginning in July, which explanation is the long from the suring which can be surrought. But this explanation, while caused it to row rapidly. This theory makes a surrough the surr COMETHING WRONG WITH THE CANE

amount of sugar to be expected in it, and the current price of sugar fixes the value of the cane.

The contracts are usually made long in advance of the grinding. When, therefore, the percentage of sugar in the cane falls so far below what was to be expected, as it has this year, the sugar house buying it at the rates established by experience is puying too high. Many of the manufacturers are fluding that they are naving far more than the cane will yield them. There is a demand for a reduction in the price, but most of the contracts were made in advance and the reduction can be obtained only by consent of the sellers. Whatever loss there may be will fall upon those bast able to stand it.

The sugar industry is the life of Louisiana and the planters say with truth that 500,000 people share in its profits. The grinding season is the holiday of the negro. He has hard work, but the pay is large, three or four times what he can make in the coston field. The consequence is that when the cotton is gathered the negroes tramp off to the sugar plantation.

what he can make in the coston field. The consequence is that when the cotton is gathered the negroes tramp off to the sugar plantation, where they work until Christmas.

There is a most abundant supply of labor this year because of the low price of cotton. Many of the negroes have actually abandoned the cotton standing in the fields, for it searcely mays to pick it at present psices, and have come to southorn Louisiant to try their hands.

The negroes, however, are not the only sugar laborers. The tendency is toward employing white labor because the industry is becoming more intelligent and scientific and the negro is gradually being crowded out. There are 25,000 or 30,000 Italians working on the plantations, and some 4,000 or 5,000 come over to this country annually, some through New York, but most of them through New Orleans, help to rake off the sugar crop and return to Italy in the spring satisfied with the profits of a single season. Finally there is a great deal of highgrade, skilled habor, including chemists, machinists, &c. The labor contracts are generally made well in advance and the laborer will not suffer because of the poor yield of the cane.

POWER FOR CALIFORNIA. GREAT ELECTRICAL PROJECTS NOW

A Belief That in Harnessing Mountain Streams California Has Discovered the Cheap Power She Needed to Become a Cheap Power She Needed to Become a Manufacturing State-Results Obtained.

POMONA, Cal., Nov. 28,-Wonderful things are being done in California in these days in the way of long distance electrical transmission. Millions of dollars are going into the development of electricity in the mountain canon streams and the transmission of the electrical energy to the cities and towns in the State. California far excelled the world's best record for the transmission of electricity of a high voltage for a long distance (that made over the Lauffen-Frankfort circuit in Switzer-land and Germany) by the famous San Antonio and San Bernardino circuit in Pomona Valley, and this season there are four places in the State where the best records so far will be surpassed.

"On the Pacific coast," said ex-State Comptroller Phillips, "the long-distance transmission of electricity is the greatest thing for the common went since the Pacific railroads were built thirty years ago. Here, where fuel is very dear and consequently motive power is costly, and where labor has been so scarce, the Californians have been obliged to consume manu actured products. Go into any of the stores-no matter of what description-from Mexico to British Columbia and vou will find that 95 per cent, of all the goods the Pacific coast people buy comes from the other side of the Rocky Mountains. Hundreds of merchants tell me that the only articles made in California are overalls and woollen blankets. The greatest financial problem with us has been to manufacture on this coast, and thereby save the tens of millions of dollars paid at nually for railroad freight on articles brought 2,000 and 3,000 miles from the Eastern factories. Many men have lost fortunes in trying to establish shoe, hat, woollen and furniture factories out here, where we have the raw materials in abundance, because the cost of the power to drive the machinery was an obstacle which they could not overcome. The population of the Pacific coast has grown upward of 2,300,000 since 1860, and, with the exception of beet sugar factories, sawmills and railroad shops. there is no manufacturing done on the coast At last achievements in harnessing the caffor streams and the transmission of electrical power from inaccessible spots in the mountains to centres of our coast population settles the power problem. In a year or two California will have the cheapest, cleanest, and most convenient motive power in the Union."

The success of the electrical plant at Folom, where 2,000 horse power is taken from the American River and sent over copper wires twenty-four miles to Sacramento, with very little loss in energy in transmission, opened the eyes of capitalists and civillengineers in California to the possibilities of electrical development on streams on the slopes of the Sierras. It has been reckoned that if all the power in the streams on the western slope of the Sierras from Oregon to San Diego were brought into use by means of electrical inventions, about 280,000 horse power could be obtained. If the caffon streams in California were thoroughly harnessed by modern electrical achievement, sufficient power could be produced to move every street car, elevator, printing press, threshing machine and mining irill in the State, besides illuminating every building in California. With the beginning of the new year the bold-

est and most costly piece of electrical engineering in the country west of Niagara Falls will be practically fluished. Its purpose has been to bridle the Santa Ana River among the San Bernardino Mountains-the most turbulent, foaming and powerful stream in southern California. By the bridling of this stream nearly 12,000 horse power may be taken from the water and sent eighty miles to Los Angeles city, where it will propel street cars, light and heat houses and run machinery. The enterprise has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the company will be able to sell power cheaper than any steam company in the Eastern "States and most water-power companies. For three years the enterprise has been in progress. Miles of tunnels have been blasted through a mountain, two big dams have been built, steel conduits hundreds of feet long have been laid around mountain sides and tons of electrical machinery have been hauled from Redlands up into the San Bernardino Mountains.

Electrical engineers from New York and Chicago say that the most notable fact in the harnessing of the Santa Ana River to do man's work is the transmission of electricity of a high voltage over eighty miles of wire with so

consequence is that when the cotten to gath tation, where they work until Christians.

There is a most apundant supply of labor 3 the content of the content

convenience of electrical transmission. Something like \$3,000,000 has been invested in such electric plants in this State already. The Californians have a reputation of doing nothing by halves, and it seems not a wild statement that a dozen millions of doilars will be invested in electrical plants along the caken streams and in copper wire and machinery here in the next few years.

For several mouths a corps of engineers has been making plans for the development of electric power from the Kaweah River in Tulare county. The engineers' estimate puts the total expense of the work at \$80,000. About 1.200 horse power can be obtained and this may be utilized in Tulare, Forterville and other San Joaquin Valley towns. Up at Reading, in northern California, under the shadows of Mount Shasta, work on the greatest electrical power plant in America, outside of Magara, is progressing. New York, San Francisco and Buffalo capital is back of the enterprise, which will cost several millions of dolars. The only element of doubt in the scheme is the distance that the voltage may be economically transmitted, for the little towns in the part of the State where the electricity is developed cannot use all the motive power this enterprise proposes to develop.

Near San Diego is one of the most famous of the bis irrigation dams of the world, that at Sweetwater, which has stood for ten sears. It is provised to get some 2,000 horse power at the dam and transmit it to San Diego, twenty miles distant. U. S. Grant, Jr., and Jesse Grant, sons of Gen. Grant, are at the head of a company which has the plan in view. Electrical engineers have reported that nowhere can horse power be developed and transmitted cheaper than in San Diego county. There are other great water powers in the San Diego mountains and canons, and it is believed the Atchison. Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company is interested in having its civil engineers search there for a new power for the stream in Sanchez Canon, among the Sierras back of Stockton, and possibly San Franci

SAN JUAN'S NEW WATER PLANT. A Municipal Improvement Which Has Beer

400 Years in Coming. San Juan, Porto Rico, Nov. 18.-The new \$600,000 municipal water system of San Juan. which is part of \$1,100,000 worth of improvements authorized by the Spanish home Government within the past four years, will be ready for use before the next dry season, in February, 1899. For the first time then in 400 years the people here will not have to depend upon frequent showers, or country water carts, for their supply of water. They get thereafter a filtered product, 1,000,000 gallons daily if necessary, from perhaps the best city plant, for a population of 30,000, in the United States.

Each housetop during the rainy season nov supplies the inhabitants underneath with water. From the flat roofs the rain descends hrough pipes to a cistern, which in most dwellings of three or four families holds 700 gallons. Many people take the water direct from the eistern for washing and ordinary household purposes. But for drinking they all filter the rainwater through a small bowl of sandstone two feet across the top, which costs at the store from two to six pesos. As showers come every few days, except in the dry season, the people get a plentiful supply of water nine months in the year. In February, March, and sometimes in April, however, the poorer classes often suffer from the dry spell. At this season the well-to-do residents buy water from country peddlers for five cents jug, the quantity depending somewhat on the

water from country peddlers for five cents a jug, the quantity depending somewhat on the quality. But as the city maintains free cisterns in the public squares, even the poorest need not die from thirst. Here at the public wells a Spanish policeman armed with a small sword allows the applicants in regular turn to fill their jugs or pails. This water the city government brings from the fillo Piedras at a cost, during the dry season, of \$5,000 a month. In two squares, the Coion Plaza, where the rainwater comes from the roof of the theatre, and the Marinia Plaza, where an artesian well bubbles up, the city also maintains free cisterns twelve months in the year.

The water of the new municipal plant will come not from the bousetons, but through a 20-inch main from the Rio Piedras, nine miles distant. In January the contractors began the construction of the water system, but owing to the war they were unable to finish the work, as acreed, last August. Nevertheless only the power station now remains uncompleted. At Rio Piedras the plant includes two settling tanks with a total capacity of 2,800,000 gallons, three separate filter beds, a collecting reservoir and the accompanying power louse. Taken from the river the water will be stored first in one of the two settling tanks twenty-four hours before passing through the adjoining filter beds, only two of which will be used at a time. When purified by the finest grade of sand the water will be pumped un 130 feet to the collecting reservoir, half a mile away, which stands forty feet above the highest point in San Juan. For the present the distribution will be made to the city direct from the Rio Piedras basin, which has a capacity of 750,000 gallons.

The appropriation of \$600,000 for the water system also includes the cost of a covered distribution was a specific of the collecting capacity of the collecting reservoir, half a mile away, which stands forty feet above the high-

past ten or fifteen years and I am sure we are going to have a hard winter."

Mr. Hartz was asked whether, if he killed another goose of last spring, its breastbone would show up the same blue marks.

"Certainly," he replied. "I have tried it often. I like goose meat; urefer it to turkey. All the geese I have ever killed and roasted in one year have had the same colored breastbone. They vary very little for the same year, But for different years no two are alike. I have screat faith in goose bones. They never deceive me. If I take a goose say about Nov. 20 I can always tell by the bone what kind of winter we'll have. When the blue marks branch out in lines toward the edges of the bone, that means an open winter until January. This year the blue is solid away out to the edge almost. That shows no open winter, but an old-fashioned snowy and key winter from the start in November clear up to March. I am sure of this, for the goose bone never fools me. Any one can make a goose-bone test. Get a goose from last string, roast it, serve and earve it, but be careful you don't break or cut into it. Then gently scrape off all the meat and let the bone dry naturally. Then watch how the blue covering will develop all over the bone. There is no trick about it. It's all natural. Of course, I can't explain why it is 30. My forefathers couldn't, but they believed in it just the same.

"There are many things we cannot explain. We know when the wild reese fly south early, like a wedge in the sky, that it means an early call winter. The geese go south to get into a warmer elimate, because it is coder than they like un there where they come from. They have the instinct I cannot tell. I was out in the country yesterday and the old foaks told me they noticed that the muskrat along the streams this year were building their houses much higher up on the banks of the creeks than last year. Of course that means that the little animats that there is going to be a great deal of deep snow this winter and the chirumanks went to be up and out o

FUNERAL CARES ASSUMED.

AN UP-TO-DATE ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE "TRANSIENT DEAD."

Hotel Keepers Rejoiced to Find Some One Who Will Relieve Them of Great Trouble -A Plant That Is a Hotel, Church and Factory-Everything but Grief Supplied. "Show rooms and trimmings upstairs. Elecric elevators, telephones, every latest conven-

ence for luxury and economy.

So reads the sign to the left as one enters the nain, ground floor room of a showy fronted even-story building uptown on the west side. building more imposing than any other on the block, and that draws attention by sheer out-lay of broad-glassed windows and glitter of new paint and varnish. To all intents and appear ances it might be a department store or an upq-date millinery, tailoring, hair bleaching or nanicuring establishment, or an office buildng for formal and meaningful deals in stocks and bonds. The outside is non-committal, Entrance is gained by one of those revolving allgo-the-same-way doors that are traps to the nwary and then the cat is out of the bag, or rather out of the casket for a gorgeous and mpressive bier, lavish with quilted satin and expensive velvet, all plumed and lit by five blazing electric lights, stands midway in the floor, typical of the essentially mortal and mortally essential nature of the plant. The place is a big, co-operative, general utili-

ty, undertaking and burial establishment-a plant halled by the hotel keepers and boarding and lodging house masters and mistresses of the city as filling a long-time need, and also having the unqualified approval of advanced thinkers of the Edward-Bellamy-Looking-Backward type, who regard it as the entering wedge in the great millennium scheme for a cooperative adjustment of life's problems. Up to ow people so inconsiderate as to die in rented lodgings or apartments in New York, or in any big, busy city, have been ranked as sheer imposters, soilishly regardless of and indifferent to the trouble they make, and very obviously in the way. The landlord in every such case seems to assume, and perhaps justifiably, that the said person had hired those especial premses to die in. With the opening and operation of the funeral plant in question the innkeeper and boarding master, the flat house janitor and apartment owner may breathe free. Just a message on the nearest telephone to the plant authorities and the entire responsibility is lifted once and for all from their shoulders and

In case of a sudden or suspicious death in a vell regulated household nowadays there need he no protracted, tedious waiting for a delayed Coroner, with the house and its inmates upset meanwhile. There need be no hurrying off after a physician's certificate, or a minister's services, or the bother and detail of telegraphing over the country to the dead man's friends. All that individual and enforced solicitude is now done away with, for the stranger, and the practically homeless dead folk are the especial care of the new plant, and no stone is left unturned to do the proper thing under the cir cumstance to the best of the management's ability. The joint-stock funeral parlors "jus below the show and trimming rooms" in the new and complete building give evidence of frequent use. No charge is made for the benefits of these funeral parlors. The person whose means will only afford a \$40 burial-everything

means will only afford a \$40 burial—everything included—may repose in state for days there, as well as the wealthy incumbent whose income warrants a \$1,000 casket and appointments and cemetery lot.

"Every comfort afforded the bereaved" is a main boast of the plant, and a factor in this is the ample and eye-engaging folding beds rauged against the wall in the funeral parlor, wherein and whereby the relatives who have been summoned to the place from a distance, or even within the city limits, may avoid hotel or lodging bills while in pursuance of the duty. Convenient to the folding beds are electric buttons, the more pressure of which brings food and other sustenance to the watcher without forethought or trouble. Ofttimes whole families from the suburbs are quartered temporarily in the funeral parlors, and such frequent use are the necommodations put to that the management is arranging for and equipping a second funeral parlor on the floor above, one spacious enough to hold 900 people and provided with the same comfort and facilities.

Just off the funeral parlor, where the minister and muse for the obscuries are revoided free Just off the funeral parlor, where the minister d music for the obsequies are provided free charge, are rooms for the daily and nightly e of the plant's caretakers and staff attend-

use of the plant's caretakers and staff attendants. Bodies are removed to the Parlors (always spelled with a capital P) day or night from hotels, homes, boarding houses, from flats, hospitals, morgues, &c., and the officials must be on the spot to answer calls and respond promptly to telephone messages. These functionaries are domesticated, and the dishes and dining, bed making and general hobnothing within sound of the continuous funeral that awaits beyond the partition impart a homely grotesqueness to the businessilke undertaker atmosphere that pervades the establishment.

says, which stands forty feet above the highest coint in San Juan. For the press a test more than the say of the pressure of the say of the pressure of the say of th

It's boundary, and the peculiar type of tombstone desired.

The basement floor is given over to the juriadiction of the embalmers and cremation
and chemical congeniing for—and all the
parapherasila and appliance is led in those
departments. Extra candles and inneral parior
decorations are also kept there, to be at hand
when wanted for ritualistic ceremonials. There
may be something forbidding in this mechanical laying away of the dead, dealing with them
in cut-and-dried, the-greatest-good-to-thegreatest-number fashion, something that conservative, cild-time people would be agnast at:
but the landlords and boarding mistresses
bless the innovation. Such luxurious, though
homeless and kinless whits as are conscious
that they have no rightful title to trouble the
people they are quartered with by dying, may
how rest casy in the knowledge that when the
emergency comes a competent, all-thoughtful
plant stands not only ready but anxious to
shoulder all untoward ado, and carry out the
charge faithfully, even to the personal conduct
of the body-to any designated spot that the
desd person may have once called home.

SWELLING IT IN NEW YORK.

City Outings Enjoyed by Young and Middle Aged Men from the Country.

"I got the man I was looking for," said a de ective from a small city near New York, "but the way he was done up was a surprise to me. I have since learned that there are any number of young and middle-aged men who are straight and orderly at home, and who, when they get to New York, go on a sort of masquerade. was told to-day of one young business man. He dresses very plainly at home. As soon as he strikes the city he goes to a barber shop and has his hair parted in the middle and his mustache waxed. Then he puts on half a dozen showy rings and a showy necktie, and the plain, every-day country business man becomes a sort of city swell. Now, the man I ar-

dozen showy rings and a showy necktie, and the plain, every-day country business man becomes a sort of city swell. Now, the man I arrested was just that pattern. He told me, after I had joilled him on his changed appearance, that he always made a parade like that yery time he came to New York on business or pleasure. He said it was a good deal of sport to him to go into an uptown saloop, the higher up the better, and swell about for an afternoon or evening, to enjoy the sensation of being considered a high-flyer by the waiters or others he might chance to meet. Of course, he knew no one. He liked to go into a cafe, sparkling with his gems, barbered and polished and perfumed, and order a five-cent beer and tip the waiter with a quarter.

"I asked him where the sport of it came in. He told me that he had a quarter's worth of lun in watching the waiter carry the news to the other waiters and the managor, until finally he was an object of curiosity and was passing current as a high roller blowing in a fortune. Then he'd order another beer, and once more tip the waiter with a quarter. He'd drop the remark that mait liquor best suited his stomach; that cooktails irritated or upset his digestion. He'd dazzle the surroundings with his sporklers and have a glorious time in noting the effect. He could easily pick up acquantances, but this was not desired. He had the most fun in going about alone from cafe to cafe, especially at night. He told me that there were hundreds of such cases. I again asked my man to tell me what the pleasure was in it. He told me it was better than a direct so the cases of the cases. I again asked my man to tell me what the pleasure was in it. He told me that there were hundreds of such cases. I again asked my man to tell me what the pleasure was in it. He told me that he very come in the there were hundreds of such cases. I again asked my man to tell me what the pleasure was in it. He told me that he proprietor of a cafe whether he had ever run up against any young massing current so his place

was having a quiet time in New York and was so glad to meet some one he knew from home that he asked me to a swell restaurant for dinner. He ordered dinner for two. I did not hear his order. We were to come in at 6 P. M. We strolled around until that time, then went to dine, and you may believe me or not, when that dinner was served, a ten-pound turkey hen, steaming hot, brown as a chestnut, was brought in for us two. Of course, I was amazed. I told him two portions of turkey could just as well have been ordered. He smiled good-naturedly and simply answered that he liked his meals fresh made and that he wanted practice at carving because the expected to be married shortly. Well, I then gave him all the points I knew about carving and we had a jolly time. He tipped the waiter with a \$5 note and paid the dinner bill very cheerfully. I think it was \$20, because we had a variety of other things, all of the best. I was told before we left that we were the first pair that ever dined on a whole turkey in the history of the house, which information amply rewarded my friend for all his outlay of money. "In a large city like New York you can make up your mind that very many of the men you see strolling around alone, dazzling with gems and made ur in the latest style, are fellows who are out for a quiet lark, who are weary of home restraint, who read a great deal of swell men and who have a desire to live in that atmosphere for only a little while, and to gratify their desire in that line they come to New York.

men and who have a desire to live in that atmesphere for only a little while, and to gratify
their desire in that line they come to New York,
where they are not likely to run up against any
one they know, and then they indulge in high
rolling to their heart's content, no matter
what it costs. For a few hundred dollars they
can carry on for a week. Then they put away
their diamonds, comb their hair with a part
low on the left side and comb out their mustache and let it droop naturally, and as they
reach their train to depart for home they once
more become the plain Jones, Brown, Smith
or Johnson as they are at home, and return to
their native heath satisfied and pleased that they have at least been a millionaire for a

SARGASSO SEA SERPENTS.

Capt. Donovan's Precise Statement Backed Up by an Affidavit in Due Form.

From the Mobile Daily Register. It seems that we will have to admit that there are serpents in the sea. The statement of Capt. Joseph Donovan of the British steam-ship Selma, backed by the signed statements of his officers, his helmsman, and several other

of Capt. Joseph Donovan of the British steamship Selma, backed by the signed statements of his officers, his helmsman, and several other members of his crew, cannot well be discredited. According to the Captain, he saw the servent on July 8, while the ship was in Serganso Bea, that portion of the North Atlantic Ocean where a continued calm prevalls and where the waters have so little current that a great mass of seaweed and other vegetable growth has gathered. It is possible that animals not found elsewhere on the globe have survived in that little-visited and never-disturbed portion of the sea.

Capt Donovan's story is precise. He was 300 miles southeast of the Hermudas, the day was perfectly clear, and the sea was like glass. The mate saw a strange object off the port bow and the Captain examined it with his glasses, It was about 500 yavis distant, moving in a course parallel with that of the ship and at about the same sneed as the ship. It had shody about forty feet long, a large head, with a long bill, and blew water from its mouth like a man when swimming. When the ship was steered in the direction of the monster, it humped its back and disappeared. It had an immense fin and shaggy mane.

A fews minutes later the helmsman called attention to another servent of the same general appearance as the first, but over 200 feet long, this one being about lifty yaris in front, across the bow of the ship. The monster appeared frightened, and in swimming it rolled up a mass of water in front of it to the height of six feet. This serpent also had a large fin. Still a third was seen a moment later, closs to the ship—a smaller serpent, ten or twelve feet in length, and with a fin like the others, and, as also could be seen, with four large flippers, two on a side. The Cautain adds that he had often heard of sea monsters, but never before had given the stories credit, but now he is convinced that sea serpents exist, and that he has seen some of the largest of the species. The statement of the officers and crew is us follo

A Meddling Phonograph.

A Meddling Phonograph.

From the Philadeiphia Record.

The Board of Health is the recipient of many queer complaints, but the one it received the other day from a diagnosted and nervously prostrated jeweller of Eighth street is entitled to prominence in a class by itself.

It seems that the jewelry store is located next door to a phonograph establishment that has for the purpose of attracting passers by a phonograph going all day long. All kinds of times and alleged witty sayings are agleaked forth from early in the morning until late at night in peculiarly penetrating and nerve-distroying tones. At first the machine efforts at wit amused the leweller, and he used to laugh heartily at the comicalities, but these were repeated with such deadily persistency that they began to pall, and from being amused the tradesman grew into a negative desporado.

One day the elimax was reached when a customer, who looked like ready money, came in to buy a diamond ring. For some reason the machine next door was quiet for a while, and the jeweller was juston the point of coaing a highly profitable sale when the shrill voice of the phonograph began to sing "Get Your Money's Worth." The amazed castomer hesitated, and finally told the jeweller he would call another day. This incident was the hist straw, and the Board of Health will now look into the matter.

MAILS AIRE EASY TO ROB.

BUT FEW POR TAL THIEFES EVER ES CAPE FIN'AL DETECTION.

estimes It Tak ts Months to Capture Them and Som stimes Years—A Thief Caught by Means at Mucliage—Two Methods Used to Detect Post Office Thieves,

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, -"Post Office thinves nay work undetected for months, perhaps cars, but they are sure to be entrapped and punished in the end," sale' an old detective of the Post Office Department. "And I may add." he continued, "that no thief i's harder to catch than the one who robs Unatle Sam's mails Their methods are ingenious, the plunder is easily hidden or destroyed and their rascality is well masked by the honests and integrity of associates."

Post Office thieves are not arres, 'ed every day, although valuable letters and on her articles are stolen almost daily and an arm v of shrewd inspectors are on the alert. Posith 'e proof of guilt must be in the possession of an inspector before an arrest is made. In almost every instance arrest means conviction. A Pe it Office employee never knows when he is being shadowed. Even when not under sus picton of theft he may be watched outside of bus thess hours to see if he is spending more my mer than his salary will permit and if he is gat oning with a fast gang. It sometimes happe us that an inspector may not be able to prove h a man a thief and the accused is turned loose! with a verdict of "not guilty" as his certificates of honesty, but that man is not wanted by the Post Office Department any more. From one point of view it is wonderful that

there are so few thisves among the many thousand clerks who handle the mail first and last, for great temptations constantly rise as they handle the millions of valuable parcels. It is known that these clerks soon learn to tell by the very touch of a letter whether is contains money. If so inclined, it would be an easy matter for the dishonest clerk to slip letters into his pocket and open them in the privacy of his room. That the cases of disonesty are comparatively few is a high tribute to the moral qualities of Post Office clerks.

"Years ago." resumed the inspector, as he refilled a beautiful pipe presented to him by ex-Inspectors Booth and Whitesides, "on one of the old star routes out in New Mexics hundreds of letters containing money, drafts," cheeks and other valuables were stolen. At first letters and all disappeared, but the thieves, changed their mode of operation and simply stole the contents, resealing the letters and sending them on. As letters pass through, the hands of many clerks it is always difficult. to locate the thief. Months of faithful work resulted in nothing being discovered as to the identity of the thieves, and the rifling of leters continued.
"Finally there was a happy solution of the

trouble. One of the inspectors procured a quantity of different kinds of drugs and sent other inspectors over the entire route with instructions to make a tour of book investigations, and while thus engaged to place some of one kind of the drugs in the mucilage bottle at each office, taking care to make a memorendum which would show at what office the drug had been placed. It was not long before a registered letter came through with the money gone. The inspector put his lips to the seal of the envelope, tasted the mucilage, referred to his book, and at once named the office at which the particular drug had been placed in the mucilage. Then a lot of decoy registered letters went to that office, and the dishonest Postmaster secured the contents and the inspectors secured him. This, I think, was one of the cleverest pieces of work

think, was one of the cleverest pieces of work ever done by the department. The inspector who put it into execution was a fine chemist and knew exactly what kind of d. Tags to get.

"There are but two successful was to catch a Post Office thief—constant was hims and decoy letters. With those and paylone the same will be landed, although it often requires months and sometimes years. It is on 10 the most amoving and difficult lines of defective work a man ever engaged in and require the most enriest application. Not a single circumstance or detail must be overloced d. Sometimes luck helps us out of our diffication. It remember once in a city not very far Sometimes luck helps us out of our difficaties. I remember once in a city not very fafrom Washington things were in a fearful statein the distribution division of the office. It's
appeared as though we would never catch the
fellow who was making away with valuable;
letters. One day there came up a terriffe rain
and with this came a happy thought to the inspector. He carried a bucket of water into the
loft and threw it on the overhead plastering
just over the distributers. Naturally a leak
was spring and a workman, who was taken
into the confidence of the inspector, was sent
into the loft to make an investigation. Accidentally on purpose his foot went through the
wet plastering, leaving a hole.

"Of course, to repair this it would have been
necessary to do the work from the distribution
room, and, as this was not done, the clerks
want alread with their work while the inspec-

"Of course, to repair this it would have been necessary to do the work from the distribution room, and, as this was not done, the clerks, went ahead with their work, while the inspector looked down at their every movement from the supposed accidentally made hole. Finally he was rewarded by seeing one of the oldest employees in the office sinoing letters futo his booket. The inspector collared the fellow and found the letters in his booket. Seeing he was causht dead to rights, the mean confessed everything. In court he attempted in defence, save to say that he had been dealing in futures, had had his wings severely clipped, and stole to even up.

"A German named Namath gave the inspectors a world of trouble in the same city. Thousands of letters were missed, and goodness only knows how much money stelen. It was a case which nuzzled the department, and after weeks of the closest investigation it was decided that the crooked work was not done in the Post Office. Then an outside campaign was begun and Namath was arrest while stealing latters from one of the street boxes. He did not have a key, but used a wise for extracting the letters. His operational were confined to becase in the business sections, and he admitted that he had stelen not less than 10,000 letters before he was caushif the amount of money he got could never be ascertained but he must have secured a snuar sum. His confession sent him to the penitural sum. That she been made here in Warhington There's a powerful array of employees here. But they seldom go wroug, and yet inspector. The name made Post had some one to look after the inspectors the department might be better off." haughingly s

A WORLD CAPITAL, THIS,

And Broadway but a Busy Stretch of a Path "It is quite a journey, the trip across the con

tinent," said a New Yorker, "and even the American, accustomed as he is to great ditances, and to everything on a big scale, thinks in his heart, the first time he makes it, that this is a big country. But I venture to say that we shall presently discover that we have been but provincials, and that feeling will come to us together with the revelation that we are now citizens of the world, indeed, when we come to see our flag floating over distant shores.
"The Eastern man who travels for days day

and night before he comes to the confines of his own country cannot fall to be impressed by the magnitude of it. But now subject that may the magnitude of it. But now subject that may the magnitude of it. But now subject that his stead of stopping at San Francisco he kent on for days across the broad Pacific, to find his fing flying on the Hawaiian Islands, these lesionging to his own country. And then on again for days till he comes to lands not me selands in the sea, but, ceean bound though they are, considerable territories over which his fing floats. Now he's helf way round the world, but on his own soil still, and New York seems no longer simply a great city with a world, but on his own soil still, and New York seems no longer simply a great city with a world capital.

"But not entirely so, We want something more. There is a lonesome stretch around the other half of the world, from the Phillippines on, where we have no place to set withings that we shall find chares there, no deads, in the course of time, it's the mature of things that we should and when that time comes the citizen of this town when he wells Broadway will realize that it is no longer nerely a part of a local road that runs a few thousand inlies and stops, but the busy section of a nice that goes round the world. and night before he comes to the confines